



Vol. 51 No. 21

June 10, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Change of command

• Lt. Col. Patrick Vetter will assume command of the 31st Security Forces Squadron from Lt. Col. John Quattrone at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Hangar One.

• Col. Kimberly Toney will assume command of the 31st Mission Support Group from Col. Scott Chambers at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Hangar One.

Field closure

The Aviano Dragon Fitness Center football field and running track are closed until Tuesday due to installation of light towers there.

Area One parking

Area One parking lots are being repainted June 20 to July 8. During that time, half of the parking lots will be closed. The gravel parking lot next to the Mini Mall will be available for additional parking. Call Ext. 6018 for more information.

Area One detour

Beginning June 17, access to the clinic and Aviano Family Support Center changes as the road leading to them will close for construction. Drivers will be routed to drive around past the kindergarten, library and school to get to the clinic and FSC. Detour signs will be posted.

Wing commander works to win

New leadership expects Airmen, unit excellence

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Vigileer staffwriter

During the 31st Fighter Wing change of command ceremony here June 1, the new commander spoke of his appreciation for the previous wing leadership and his goals for the future.

After assuming command, Brig. Gen. Robert Yates praised former wing commander, Brig. Gen. Phillip Breedlove and the wing's senior leadership for their work at Aviano.

"You've done a fantastic job leading the way and it's right to thank the outgoing commander and leadership because I'm taking the reigns of a thoroughbred," said General Yates. "I know I'm very, very lucky to be assuming command in your footsteps."

During his speech, General Yates also spoke about his focus for the Air Force's only fighter wing south of the Alps.

"My personal goal is to continue to build on the winning habit the wing has. When you walk around the base, you can see the wing leadership had its act together. The evidence is in every 'Best in USAFE' sign," the general said. "Whether it's winning when the challenge is small, or winning when the challenge is huge, the focus for the fighter wing will be plain, old everyday common garden-variety winning."

To accomplish his goal of making the 31st FW the best wing in the Air Force, General Yates believes having respect for the mission



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates assumes command of the 31st Fighter Wing from Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander, during a recent ceremony here.

and each other are key.

"The mission and the people go together; you can't do one without the other," General Yates said. "Take care of each other and we'll get the mission done. If we take care of each other better than any other wing, then we'll get the mission done better than any other wing in the Air Force."

"We'll do our best to continue the tradition of excellence and high standards previously set for the world famous 31st Fighter Wing," said General Yates.

Eagle Eyes People can report any suspicious behavior or people they notice in their neighborhoods by calling Ext. 7200 or 0434-30-7200.

Aviano Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	426.4	186
ahead/behind	-2.5	-11
555th FS goal	160.6	111
ahead/behind	-2.6	-2
510th FS goal	265.8	75
ahead/behind	-14.4	-9



New uniform

The tiger stripes are out, but the digital look remains. The Air Force makes final changes to the new utility uniform before it phases into service.

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Aviano golf

A green well-kept lawn, professional equipment, a 9-hole course – these are just a few things the Aviano Alpine Golf Club offers the community.

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From the Top: A Word From Those Who Lead

31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing commander

Greetings, members of the World Famous 31st Fighter Wing.

Barb and I are communicators – we feel the need to communicate with the members of this world class wing each week. One method we will use is this publication, in the form of this weekly wing commander Vigileer ‘by line.’ So...on with the show.

In this week's edition, I first want to say what an honor it is to be your commander. Barb and I are absolutely thrilled to be here at Aviano, in the heart of northern Italy and U.S. Air Forces in Europe winning country.

Your positive attitudes, competitive spirit, and expertise in all fields has come through loud and clear to us. Along with those positive attributes, you have all gone out of your way to make me and my family feel welcome; for this we are extremely grateful!

And to our Italian hosts – my friend Col. Rosario Scarpolini, our honorary commanders and citizens of the local area – your willingness to embrace us has been fantastico, and simply “way over the top.” Grazie Mille!!

I thought I'd take the rest of this column to cover a few items with you all that are near and dear to my heart – my philosophy and some concerns.

My philosophy is simple – strive to be the best of the best, pay attention to the small things, take care of your uniformed personnel and their families, conduct yourselves appropriately at all times as representatives of the world-famous 31st FW, the U.S. Air Force and the United States.

Take time to enjoy one of the world's most beautiful regions, and take responsibility for your actions and decisions. If you adhere to those philosophical parameters, you and I will get along famously, and I guarantee you this wing will continue to explode into the pure vertical – and the rare air of winning

country.

Now onto a few items that have me concerned. Since I've been here, we've had two serious motor vehicle accidents and two drunk driving incidents.

Those numbers are, plain and simple, unsatisfactory.

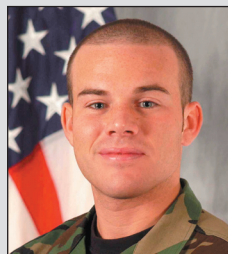
There are a number of reasons why these have occurred, but none of them are satisfactory. The vehicle accidents were both single vehicle accidents.

In both cases, we were lucky, and thankfully, our Aviano teammates will recover fully. But single vehicle accidents happen due to misjudgment, so we need to do better on the roads.

As for the drunk driving, there is never an adequate explanation for this behavior. There are numerous counter-DUI tools available to anyone at anytime – Airman Against Drunk Driving, the Dragon Wagon, your supervisor, commander, the wing commander -- any member of this wing has a free ride home 24/7/365, no questions asked.

But the part that really bugs me about DUIs is that the decision is selfish, in fact potentially fatal. By getting behind the wheel while impaired and intoxicated, you're saying that your convenience is more important than another's life. That message gains zero traction with me – it appalls me – and I know the leadership here at Aviano, commissioned and non-commissioned, feels the same.

In the end, folks, we are part of a great wing here. Let's keep it that way. Let's take care of one another. Let's be responsible members of the local community – on and off duty. Barb and I are honored to be counted among the members of the world famous 31st FW. You honor us by your performance and motivation. Let's keep it that way. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend, and I look forward to seeing you next week around the Aviano ranch.



Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Senior Airman Ryan Griffin

Unit: 555th Fighter Squadron aircrew life support technician

Time in service: Five and a half years

Hometown: South Bend, Ind.

Hobbies: Baseball, basketball and weightlifting

Accomplishments: Airman Griffin was awarded the Aviano Chief's Choice award for his professionalism and can-do attitude.

Alcoholics Anonymous celebrates 70 years

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Vigileer staff writer

Since Alcoholics Anonymous began 70 years ago today, more than two million people have silently joined its ranks.

Running solely on member contributions, this organization has helped people, including those at Aviano, around the world overcome their alcohol addiction.

Alcoholic Anonymous is a program for any person that believes they have a problem with alcohol addiction. The program is not driven by registered membership; anyone is welcome as long as they have the will to regain control of their life and to defeat or control the disease of alcoholism.

The membership rules of AA are simple; there are no dues or fees. The only requirements for members are the desire to stop drinking and to keep the membership anonymous.

"People who choose to attend the meetings should know that the first rule of the AA organization is anonymity of each member is priority," said Terry*, an Aviano community member. "What's said in the meetings stays in the meetings."

Another condition for membership is commitment to the program.

"As long as people continue to come to the meetings and possess the desire to stop drinking, they are welcomed and supported by others with related addictions of alcohol," said Terry.

The meetings are held several times a week to accommodate as many people as possible. Attending one or all of the weekly meetings is the member's choice.

"The more a person attends, the more support they receive and the more they hear of other people going through the similar experiences," said Terry.

The foundation of alcoholics anonymous is based on people

with similar addictions helping others to defeat the disease. People within the group support each other by being there - day or night - when a person may have urges to drink or just needs to talk to a friend.

Each person can join in the discussions or just listen to others, explained Terry. AA members speak up when they feel comfortable enough to join a discussion.

"The program works because what a new member is going through was probably experienced by others in the group. These experiences stem from alcohol addiction, but often spill over to many other facets of people's lives.

"Relating to these experiences and how they were dealt with by others is phenomenal in helping a person help themselves," said Terry.

People who decide to attend AA meetings can do so without fear of reprisal or having to enter into a military-sponsored program.

The AA organization is a worldwide non-profit organization with no connection to the military or the alcohol and drug addiction treatment program, Terry said.

"AA helps people overcome addiction through support, behavior and lifestyle changes as well as helping the person to recognize the factors that brought them to the level of addiction. We help people find strength and courage within themselves to control alcoholism." (*Editors Note: Name has been changed to protect privacy.)

Aviano AA

Aviano's Alcoholics Anonymous meets 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays in Area One Bldg. 168, behind the Aviano Child Development Center. For more information, call Ext. 5321.

For more information on Alcoholics Anonymous, visit www.aa.org.

Cell phones and driving: Italian law prohibits the use of handheld cell phones while driving. Drivers must pull over for a call.

Blue tiger stripe out: Air Force finalizes new utility uniform

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

"The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provide camouflage

protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1.

The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dislikes and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

"Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today's Airmen," Sergeant Athnos said.

"There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform," she said.



Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski

Air Force officials released photos of the latest version of the proposed Air Force utility uniform.

The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.

RESCON CORNER

The 31st Fighter Wing is in **RESCON BRAVO**.

It's been **3** days since the last drunk driving incident.

Focus on Combat and Special Interest Programs

Project Wizard

Project Wizard is a program aimed at increasing the opportunities for our members and families to study and explore through our libraries. Exposure to the full spectrum of resources and age-specific programs at our libraries will help educate our customers, broaden their horizons, and give them the chance to be lifelong learners.

Emergency data cards now online

Paperless transition of cards now complete

After decades of Airmen updating emergency contact information in their personnel records, everyone is now required to update the information online rather than visiting their military personnel flights.

Effective immediately, personnel flight officials are no longer required to print and file a paper copy of the Virtual Record of Emergency Data form in each Airman's personnel records, officials said.

The paperless form provides the Air Force with information needed to contact family members if an Airman suffers a serious illness or injury, or dies while on active duty.

The vRED, which replaced Department of Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data in 2003, is required to be kept updated by each Airman. Now the only way to update an Airman's emergency data is by visiting the virtual MPF online.

Airmen who do not have access to a vMPF account, such as new accessions or basic trainees, must still complete a DD Form 93 until they establish an online account, said Maj. Yancey Cowen, chief of the casualty services branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

"The biggest advantage is convenience for the customer," he said. "Airmen won't have to stand in line at the MPF to make simple changes to their



File photo

Paper is no longer needed for Air Force emergency data cards. It's all online now. Visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/ for more information.

contact information," he said.

Airmen are required to keep their vREDs current at all times and review their contact data at least annually, Major Cowen said. Also, every Airman must review his or her vRED during inprocessing and before all deployments.

"Accurate and current family contact information can prevent delays in notifications and perhaps benefits for Airmen and family members," Major Cowen said.

Personnel officials encourage all active-duty Airmen, guardsmen and reservists to update their information every six months. Civil service employees are also encouraged to update their virtual Emergency Data System contact information as needed for the same reasons.

The online applications take about 15 minutes to complete. (*Air Force News Service*)

COLA information: Visit the Per Diem Committee Web site at <http://www.wdtic.mil/perdiem/ocform.html> for information.

COLA properly compensates for overseas living costs

By Master Sgt. Mona Ferrell
*U.S. Air Forces in Europe
News Service*

As the Euro continues to fluctuate in strength against the American dollar, U.S. Air Forces in Europe members can be assured they will continue to be provided with the proper Cost of Living Allowance, said USAFE officials recently.

Foreign currency rate changes are continually reviewed in high-cost living areas and the COLA rate is changed accordingly, said 1st Lt. Jason Werner, USAFE Financial Management chief of command pay and entitlements.

COLA, a monetary allowance provided to members living in high-cost areas, ensures all military members have the same buying power, whether living overseas or in the Continental United States.

"Several factors routinely impact COLA," Lieutenant Werner said. "A Re-

tail Price Survey is conducted each year to assess the costs and typical local economy buy rate of more than 160 items and services. These items, ranging from groceries to car insurance, are meant to give the true purchase-price picture for goods and services in each high-cost living area."

The survey results for each area are then provided to the Department of Defense Per Diem Committee in Washington, D.C., he said. The Per Diem Committee analyzes the data and assigns each location an index number indicating the cost difference between purchasing those same items in the United States.

A Living Pattern Survey is also conducted every three years to gather information on whether members purchase goods and services on base or on the local economy, said Master Sgt. Keibu Kamarakafego, USAFE Financial Management chief of command travel pay and procedures.

"In this survey, the purchases are

weighted in the overall index," Sergeant Kamarakafego said. For example, car insurance is weighted more than groceries."

But, the factor that impacts a member's COLA regularly is foreign currency rate changes, said Lieutenant Werner.

"The Per Diem committee makes updates as often as twice a month, on the first and fifteenth of the month," he said. "If during that two-week period the cumulative cost of off-base spending has increased or decreased at least five percent, then the index number is changed and members receive an increase or decrease in their cost of living allowance accordingly."

Although the exchange rate fluctuates daily, it takes two weeks to adjust the military pay computer tables. But, this two-week adjustment works both ways, the lieutenant stressed.

The statistics behind COLA may be complicated, but it's an allowance that's fair, Sergeant Kamarakafego said.

Career class wraps up year

By Au Bree Mariz

Vigileer student staff writer

The Aviano Dental Clinic, the 31st Security Forces Squadron, the Vigileer and the Aviano Radiology Clinic were just a few occupational areas in which high school students learned about possible careers this past school year.

Aviano's Career Practicum class, created and run by ninth-grade counselor Cheryl Owen, Ph.D., benefited many juniors and seniors over the past few years in deciding what they would like to do after college.

"The class provides students a great opportunity to try out a career field over an extended period of time before they commit to a college major or military career," said Ms. Owen.

The class also taught young adults how to handle themselves outside of high school. When not at work, students attended class to learn how to make different types of resumes and personal profiles, career portfolios, interview skills, and presentation tactics.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 60 percent of college students change their majors before graduating. One of the class's goal is to provide career direction, and so far it's worked, said Ms. Owen.

"I have seen so many students discover their passion and make life-altering decisions from the experience," said Dr. Owen. As importantly, I have seen others decide they had better come up with a "plan B."

High school students interested in the CP program for the 2005-2006 school year should call Ms. Owen at Ext. 5919 as soon as possible to fit the class into their schedules for next year. Supervisors that are interested in having students gain work experience in their career field, should also call Ms. Owen.



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz

On the job

Airman 1st Class Steven Nehls and Airman 1st Class Eric Spomer, both aircraft armament systems specialists, begin to remove the ammunition drum on an F-16 during a weapons basic course here Tuesday.

Volunteer opportunities: Visit www.avianofsc.org/career for Aviano volunteer information from the Aviano Family Support Center.

Learning buddies help each other during school

By Martin Weckerlein

Vigileer volunteer

About 28 Aviano students gathered recently to celebrate the end of a successful school program called Learning Buddies.

"In an effort to improve the educational experience of our students, the Aviano Elementary School with the Aviano High School developed a Learning Buddies program," said Kristine Kessler, AES guidance counselor. "It's a mentoring program in

which a high school student is matched with an elementary school student."

During the school year, the buddies met twice a week during school hours to work on an academic subject identified by the elementary school teacher. In the past, students were paired with adult mentors, but deployments made it difficult to maintain relationships.

"The goal of the Learning Buddies program is to boost younger students' confidence, interest and hopefully their test scores," said Ms. Kessler. The program

proved its effectiveness. In at least two cases: elementary students earned their way onto the A/B honor roll for the third quarter after struggling the first two quarters.

The program not only helped grades improve—it also filled a void sometimes left if a military parent deployed.

"Sometimes, these students didn't have an extra person at home to help with homework," said Dee Olsen, AES counselor. "It was nice that the younger students could have someone they could count on to be there, helping them with their work."

Puppet show

Students from Harding University will present a Biblical puppet show at the Chapel 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The program will teach Biblical stories, sing hymns and songs in both in English and Italian. For more information, call Heinz Schlipf at Ext. 5152.

Combined briefings

The next Palace Front and Palace Chase briefing is 2 p.m. Monday in the 31st Mission Support Group Conference Room. The Palace Front briefing is mandatory for all re-enlistment eligible airmen who are electing to separate from the Air Force. Airmen interested in early separation through Palace Chase may also attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Boyles at Ext. 4919.

DAPS closure

The Aviano Document Automation and Production Service will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday for organizational training.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. Monday in the Chapel Education Center, Area One Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breast feeding mothers for an informal discussion on breast feeding and nutrition. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Window tinting

Window tinting of any kind on the windshield or drivers or passenger side windows other than factory installed is illegal in accordance with European road code and laws and Aviano Instruction 24-307. It could lead to fines, impoundment of vehicle, delays of travel and problems with POV vehicle inspections. For more information, call POV inspections at Ext. 4458 or the POV superintendent at Ext. 8095.

Online payments

The 31st Comptroller Squadron advises customers

of a scam occurring with MyEasyPay.com versus myeasypayment.com. Payments must be made to the Bank of America on myeasypayment.com. Government travel cardholders can make payments online at www.myeasypayment.com with the dollar amount owed, the account number and security code from the back of the card and the checking account and bank routing number from a personal check. For more information, call Bank of America customer service at 1-800-472-1424.

Package pick-up

Aviano Post Office customers need to pick up packages from the postal annex, as it's reaching maximum capacity. Packages not picked up in 10 days from the initial notice are returned to the sender in accordance with DoD and U.S. Postal Service Guidance. Customers deploying or taking leave should fill out DD Form 2258 to hold or forward mail.

Travel vouchers

Aviano servicemembers TDY longer than 45 days need to file accrual vouchers. This can be done by visiting the TDY finance office and filling out an accrual voucher. Customers need to fax all receipts, a front and back copy of orders and the accrual voucher to the Aviano finance office ATTN: customer service at 632-8166. Customers can also file a voucher by visiting virtual MPF, completing an accrual voucher and e-mailing it back to the Aviano Finance Office at fso@aviano.af.mil.

Clinic walk-ins

The Aviano Family Practice Clinic in Area One offers a walk-in clinic 2 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for specific follow-up procedures. These procedures are stitch removal, wart removal, inhaler refills, shaving waiver and Depo-Provera shots. Walk-in appointments are only

for patients who have been seen by their primary care provider and told to follow up on a regular basis. If there are any doubts about whether to use the walk-in clinic, call the appointment line at Ext. 5000 or 0434-30-5000.

Spouse Program

The 31st Mission Support Squadron seeks dedicated and creative people to help stand-up and maintain a Key Spouse Program. The Key Spouse Program is structured to provide assistance to spouses of deployed squadron or unit members with unique matters. For more information, call Master Sgt. Luis Adams at Ext. 7835.

Teen volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for teen volunteers to donate their time this summer in various base agencies. Motivated students, ages 14 and over, are needed to work in orderly rooms and other base agencies. The office also has some positions for students under 14. For more details, call Ext. 5576.

Job opportunities

The Aviano Thrift Shop is accepting applications for its manager and assistant manager/bookkeeper positions. These are permanent positions. Applicants should have management and money-handling experience. Also, the thrift shop seeks someone with financial experience to conduct an audit on their books. The shop will pay for this service. For more information on the positions, call Ext. 5428 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Girl Scouts

The Aviano Girl Scouts are hosting a western theme round-up camp August 9 to 13 with a sleep-over August 12. Cost for registered Girl Scouts is \$40 and \$50 for non-registered girls. For more information, call Valery Hodgson at 0434-30-768521 or e-mail her at cookie6886@yahoo.com.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "A Lot Like Love" Rated PG-13 Oliver and Emily meet on a plane and spend the next seven years becoming friends until they realize they love each other. Starring: Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet

Today, 8 p.m. - "Sin City" Rated R - The story of a violent city where the police department is as corrupt as the streets are deadly. Starring: Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Sin City"

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Barber Shop" PG-13 - Gina Norris opens her own beauty shop after her boss takes credit for her work. Starring: Queen Latifah and Alicia Silverstone

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "A Lot Like Love"

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Sin City"

Friday, 5 p.m. - "Fever Pitch" Rated PG-13 - When Lindsey, a big time executive, meets funny and charming high school teacher Ben, they hit it off until Lindsey realizes Ben is a Red Sox fan. Starring: Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon

Friday, 8 p.m. - "The Upside of Anger" Rated R - A woman is left to care for her four daughters when her husband unexpectedly disappears. The situation is further complicated when she falls for her neighbor, a once-great baseball star turned radio D.J. Starring: Kevin Costner and Joan Allen (*Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.*)



An Aviano member prepares to take a swing on the course here recently. Now that the weather is warming up, people are hitting the 9-hole, par-35 course.

Spending time on

Aviano's Golf Course

Nestled at the bottom of the Italian Alps, in a corner of Aviano Air Base, sits the Alpine Golf Course. As a 31st Services Squadron organization, the clubhouse offers a variety of services to the community, such as club fittings, repairs and individual lessons. The clubhouse is also home to Mulligan's Grill, an eatery which serves everything from breakfast omelettes to club sandwiches to burgers. The clubhouse is located in Flightline Bldg. 1391, and is open from dusk to dawn daily.



The golf clubhouse offers the latest golf equipment: drivers, bags, accessories and clothing. Some can be rented while others can be purchased at the clubhouse's pro shop.

Photos by Airman 1st Class
Scherrie Gates



Al Hobrecht, as the Alpine Golf Course manager, far right, welcomes customers. Because a number of customers are retirees, the course and Mulligan's Grill offer weekly specials for anyone with a retired military identification card.



Al Holbrecht retrieves equipment from a golf cart while on the course. The carts can be rented from the clubhouse.



Alpine Golf Course works are out nearly every day tending to the upkeep of the course. The staff also takes care of the snack bar and lounge, pro shop, driving range, practice green and chipping area and a locker room for storage.

Golf as it's known today originated from a game played on the eastern coast of Scotland in the Kingdom of Fife during the 15th century. Players would hit a pebble around a natural course of sand dunes, rabbit runs and tracks using a stick or primitive club.



Fly Bys

Model competition

The Aviano community is invited to the Italian military's 132nd Tank Regiment Military Model Competition 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday to June 18 and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 19. An awards ceremony takes place at 2:30 p.m. June 19. The event is held at the officer's club of "F.lli De Carli" barracks in Via Martiri della Liberta No. 163 in Cordenons. Visit the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office in the wing headquarters building for a map and directions.

Violence while traveling

If anyone experiences any type of assault or violence while traveling in Europe, he or she needs to report it upon their return to Aviano Air Base. Whether the incident involves racial or anti-American remarks or if the incident involved a physical assault, the person involved should visit the Aviano Law Enforcement Desk in Flightline Bldg. 1019 (next to the Pass and ID office.)

Traveling reminders

Aviano people traveling around Europe are encouraged to remember the following:

- Don't wear clothes that easily identify you as American, such as those displaying the flag, American colleges or sports teams.
- Avoid talking about religion or politics with strangers. An Airman from Aviano was attacked following such a discussion while visiting a European country recently. If a person ever approaches you with the intent to start such a discussion, ignore him or her and walk away. If you feel threatened, find a manager or local authority for assistants. Do not engage in a conversation with the individual and do not respond to their remarks.



Name this vacation location

This capital city, situated on what is commonly called the White Island for its typical architecture, was founded by the Phoenicians 2,600 years ago. With more than 18 kilometers of beaches, this island offers visitors the choice of many water activities. A visit to the famous hippy market, where exotic batik wraps, tailor-made leather moccasins, a tantalizing variety of east-Asian silver jewelry and trinkets and some of the original hippies can be found. Be the tenth person to name this city by sending the answer to vigileer@aviano.af.mil.

Aviano Mustang Club: This organization meets 7 p.m. today in the commissary parking lot to discuss upcoming shows. Call 0434-363-111.



File photo

Gardaland is Italy's biggest amusement park, often making the "best list" for amusement parks in the world.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- June 17 - Guided Venice and gondola ride, sign up by Monday
- June 18 - Wine tasting in Grado with special Roman fish banquet, sign up by Tuesday
- June 18 - Opera Nabucco in Verona, sign up by Tuesday
- June 22 - Gardaland, sign up by

June 17, childrens' rates offered

- June 24 to 26 - French Riviera (Nice, Cannes, Monaco, Monte Carlo)

The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. He or she will provide general information about the area, as well. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Photos by Capt. Nicholas Sabula



Volleyball championship

(Above) Kristy Lanham, Aviano volleyball team middle hitter, powers the ball over the net during the Army-Air Force Final Four Volleyball championships, which took place June 3 to Sunday in Wiesbaden, Germany. The team players (seen left) were: Lanham, Danielle Brandsey, Jessica Jackson, Heather Kowalski, Vicky Sabula and Nicole Dubnicay. Both mens' and womens' teams competed. Army teams Bamburg and Heidelberg won the championships.

Did you know? Massage is a powerful stress reliever which promotes a healthier immune system.



Champs

The Aviano Athletics baseball team (for 13 to 15 year old) beat Vicenza, Livorno and other Aviano teams to become regional champions. Team members are (front row, left to right) Brad Ward, B.J. Becker, Phillip Brady, Anthony McIntosh, Thomas Saunders, Jovanne Carrizale, Chris Bond (back row, left to right) Coach Slaman, Coach Bond, Ramon Beltran, Zack Klotz, Seth Meitzner, Greg Butler, Jose Herren, Angel Santana, Sara Kunis, Coach Santana.

Fly Bys

5k fun run

All 5K Fun Run participants must meet at 8:45 a.m. Saturday at the Dragon Fitness center. For more information or to register, call Ext. 5479.

Skate park closure

The Aviano skate park is closed June 30 through July 8 for the base Fourth of July celebration.

Body conditioning

The Dragon Fitness Center offers total body conditioning Classes from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Personal trainer

The Dragon Fitness Center offers a new personal trainer for those looking for an exclusive one-on-one training program. One-hour sessions cost \$20. Call Jennifer at 0434-747170 to make an appointment.

Massage therapist

The Area Two Fitness Center has a massage therapist. For more information or to make an appointment, call Ext. 7574.

Fitness classes

The Aviano Community Center offers fitness and power stretch classes for \$25 per person per month. Space is limited and the center has a waiting list for the available classes. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Aviano bowling

The Aviano Bowling Center is in Area One Bldg. 176. It's open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturdays. Call Ext. 7487 for more information.

Reducing drama in cyberspace

High school lessons still apply today

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Vigileer editor

My high school drama teacher, Mrs. Hodges, did the same thing every year for the first day of school.

Each desk in her classroom had a slip of white paper on it with one sentence typed across. As our first assignment, we had to stand in front of the class and read it out loud, showcasing our own dramatics.

The sentence was simple: I am so excited to be here at school.

We had the classic high school stereotypes amongst us. There was Travis, with chin-length, dark blue hair that fell, center split, over his eyes. His black fingernails contrasted against the paper as he winced through his angst-ridden delivery, tinged with sarcasm: "I...am so...excited. To be here (pause) at school." It was painful to watch.

Then there was Lena, with big blue eyes and curly hair that seemed to bounce like a shampoo commercial. Dressed in a "first day" sweater set, she stood looking down at her shoes, as if collecting her thoughts. A trick, no doubt, that she learned in drama summer camp.

She lifted her head, and then delivered a line as casual as if we were chatting over tea, complete with a British accent. "I am soooo excited to be HERE at school!" Mrs. Hodges beamed at her new "drama queen" while the rest of us studied the slips of paper before our turns – what drama would we create?

In all its cheesiness, Mrs. Hodges was teaching us about delivery and perception, important elements to acting in theater. I didn't realize it then, but she could have been teaching us about e-mail etiquette, too.

Given the nature of email – a faceless document with simple (sometimes lengthy) statements – it's perhaps the most risky form of communication out there, just because it leaves so much room for interpretation. The reader does not have the luxury of body language and appearance or voice inflection. Sometimes, I get the occasional e-mail with a flowery background or jumpy animations,

but nevertheless, the words are no different than the phrase printed on Mrs. Hodges's slips of paper.

My interpretation of my electronic mail could be – and probably is – different than my neighbors. And to each person, his or her perception is his or her reality.

So what's a modern-day communicator to do? In the words of Mrs. Hodges, it's all about knowing your audience. Who's on the receiving end of your correspondence? Is it a coworker or long-distance family? Who requires formalities and who doesn't?

Who has time to read e-mails, and who doesn't? I wouldn't write a mini-novel about an upcoming story assignment to a coworker, but maybe to my grandmother, who's interested in those kinds of things.

It never fails to be courteous, either. This means using salutations – good morning, hello, sincerely, sir, ma'am.

Writing in all capital letters comes across to some as shouting, whereas writing in complete sentences is better than short, incomplete statements, which can seem curt and rushed.

And sometimes, it's better to wait before responding to e-mails, especially if the topic is very important and emotionally-driven.

In my experience, seemingly minor problems turn into personal mud-slinging contests just because of misunderstandings through e-mail. People are more prone to use language and comments in e-mail that they'd never dream of uttering in someone's presence.

It gets worse when such e-mail is copied to others not directly involved. Ganging up on someone wasn't cool in high school – it shouldn't be accepted in e-mail, either.

Taking the time to think about a response is a good idea, just like we thought about our own mini-performances in that classroom. Nobody wants to look like a fool in front of others, right?

And when in doubt, the best thing to do is avoid e-mail all together and pick up the phone and talk to the person. That way, any drama e-mails can create are pushed to the wayside and your true intentions placed centerstage.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

"Youth Programs would like to congratulate Marilyssa Santiago, Chacrystal Jones and Aline Villanueva for their recent success in the Regional Boys and Girls Club Fine Arts Exhibit and contest which was hosted in Osan Korea. The artwork will now compete at the National Fine Arts Contest this summer. We are very proud of the participant's achievements and we wish them every success at the National level."

- Aviano Youth Programs